



Service at home sheet Sunday 27th October 2024

Opening Prayer

Father, we praise you for the colours of gold you display before us in autumn. May the brilliance we see point our hearts toward you. May our hearts never be satisfied with the things of the world, but only find true satisfaction and perfect peace in you. **Amen**

Singing the Faith no. 139 *Today I awake*

1 Today I awake
and God is before me.
At night, as I dreamt,
he summoned the day;
for God never sleeps
but patterns the morning
with slithers of gold
or glory in grey.

2 Today I arise
and Christ is beside me.
He walked through the dark
to scatter new light.
Yes, Christ is alive,
and beckons his people
to hope and to heal,
resist, and invite.

3 Today I affirm
the Spirit within me
at worship and work,
in struggle and rest.
The Spirit inspires
all life which is changing
from fearing to faith,
from broken to blest.

4 Today I enjoy
the Trinity round me,
above and beneath,
before and behind;
the Maker, the Son,
the Spirit together --
they called me to life
and call me their friend.

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Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

O God of creation, you have blessed us with the changing of seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest, and take time with you in the company of others - and also alone with you.

May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life and the promise of eternal life with you.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who gives us your breath of life.

May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will in all our dealings with all of your creation - our brothers and sisters, the earth and its flora and fauna. We praise you for your goodness. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

God our provider,

The bounty of this season reminds us of your goodness as nature bursts forth with abundance: Boughs heavy with ripening fruits, the soil yielding buried treasure of root

vegetables, The stubble fields telling of a harvest safely gathered. Let all creation sing your praise!

God of our living and dying, the turning of the season reminds us of our frailty's nature goes through change and decay: the morning mists softening the landscape, and on the air the smell of mud, and bonfires. Let all creation sing your praise!

God of all time and all seasons we come before you now, all too aware of our smallness and our brokenness. All too aware that our insecurities, our selfish thoughts, and our secret desires are an open book to you. God of mercy, forgive us:

Our words and actions have injured others. God of mercy, forgive us:

Our silence and inaction have injured others. God of mercy, forgive us: for the harm we have done to the earth.

God of mercy, forgive us: For we have failed to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you. God of mercy, forgive us and renew us. Help us to live in each moment and in every circumstance, lives of generosity and peace.

We thank you Lord God, that we can be assured of your forgiveness when we confess and offer true repentance in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Isaiah 43 1-3a

But now, this what the Lord says – he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Colossians 3 15-17

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Message

There is so much to worry about. There is so much to fill our minds with. The earth is groaning with many troubles - the climate crisis, depletion of natural habitats. There is war and famine. In our own country we know there are things which worry us - poverty, homelessness, the economy. In our families and friendship groups there may be concerns - illness, disagreements, unkind words said which have caused hurt. It is so easy to spend all our time fretting about some thing or other. There are some things we can do something about - and we should seek strength through prayer to do so. Other things are completely out of our control. It is right to be concerned, but we can make ourselves unwell by dwelling too deeply on our worries. As we move into autumn the days get shorter, we feel ourselves enveloped in darkness at both ends of the day. This is a potentially depressing time of the year, and one in which we should especially look to take care of those close to us - and also importantly of ourselves. Much of what we read in the Bible is really good common sense advice. We read in Colossians that we are to "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" I have recently started to attend Quaker

meetings. The time spent in silent contemplation, whilst in the company of others is wonderfully peaceful. I urge you all to take some time out from the concerns of the world, the nation, the local community, and immediate family and friends - and to take time with God for yourself. It is right to have concerns, but our God does not ask us to inundate ourselves with worries. Take time to breathe. Take some time refilling your spirit with the peace of Christ.

A poem from "Faith in Grey Places"

Songs of the Spirit: Peace

Yours is a peace that rests. It does not quiver or tremor, It does not stir or shiver, But basks in contentment of home.	Yours is a peace that brings rest. It does not clench or hasten, It does not falter or stumble, But flows in ease and refreshment
Yours is a peace that gives rest. It does not wane or waver, It does not sleep or slumber, But watches in ever-cradling love.	

Songs of Fellowship no. 546 *There's a quiet understanding*

There's a quiet understanding When we're gathered in the Spirit, It's a promise that He gives us When we gather in His name. There's a love we feel in Jesus, There's a manna that He feeds us, It's a promise that He gives us When we gather in His name.	And we know when we're together, Sharing love and understanding, That our brothers and our sisters Feel the oneness that He brings. Thank You, thank You, thank You, Jesus, For the many ways You lead us; Thank You, thank You, Lord.
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Prayers of Intercession.

Loving God, your kingdom is a kingdom of justice and mercy. We pray for the leaders of the nations, for change where power is exploited; for strength of will and vision where there is real effort to be generous and fair. Today, we pray especially for all countries where war and unrest are destroying families and homes. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is a kingdom of hope and joy. We pray for those near and far who are not well in body, mind or spirit - who are feeling sad, anxious, ill, forgotten, who feel on the edge of things; who are homeless or whose land is ravaged by fighting or disaster who are poor, hungry and in despair. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is one of love and unity. We pray for your church, here and across the world, that we might be signs of your loving presence adding to a momentum of your inclusive, enfolding grace. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is one of light and life. We pray that we might, with deep thankfulness, dwell in the light and life of Jesus Christ, come to bring fullness of life to all. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done. Amen.**

Singing the Faith no. 468 *I was on your mind*

I was on your mind
I was on your mind.

You know all my thoughts and ways,
show me more of yours.

Take me by the hand,
lead me down your paths of truth.
Mark my ways with peace and love;
I am on your mind.

All I am is all I have,
in this gift of life.

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Closing Prayer

Jesus calls us by name, invites us each one into a future filled with light, love and fullness of life. May his blessing and his peace rest on us all. **Amen**

This worship service was prepared and edited by Mrs Sally Graham